

# Library Services & Technology Act

# Michigan Report for 2013

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Information Partners for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



May 2014

Dear Members of Congress:

Michigan's libraries play an integral role in Michigan's present and future. Public libraries serve rural and urban communities with vital services and resources for residents of all ages and walks of life. School libraries shepherd K-12 students through improving reading literacy to learning to navigate information literacy. Academic libraries assist in the research needs of faculty and students. In all of these places, the Library of Michigan offers equity through a base level of support for individuals and all types of libraries. These statewide resources and services help businesses expand, workers learn new skills, students complete research, and individuals improve their literacy and enjoy lifelong learning. Libraries are collaborating daily with each other and with businesses and agencies to address these needs. The federal Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) funds continue to be an integral part of this partnership.

Your continued support for the people of Michigan through the funding and reauthorization of the federal Museum and Library Services Act has provided equitable, quality resources and services to your constituents. These resources are the foundation of many successful programs, such as the Michigan eLibrary, which receives significant state and local funds too. All of Michigan's residents benefit from these services and resources. Our future will require more and evolving skills and these accessible resources have become an essential part of reaching for that future. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy R. Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Nancy R. Robertson  
State Librarian of Michigan

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## LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN'S MISSION

The Michigan Legislature created The Library of Michigan to guarantee the people of this State and their government one perpetual institution to collect and preserve Michigan publications, conduct reference and research, and support libraries statewide.

The Library of Michigan supports all Michigan communities and residents through the use of federal funds. The programs and resources supported with federal funds fulfill the Library of Michigan's mission and the federal LSTA goals. Michigan is beginning a slow economic recovery, but local municipalities and institutions continue to have structural budget issues. Michigan's LSTA program focuses on statewide services to provide access to information, assistance, and training throughout the state so all have access to quality resources. This focus puts a premium on giving all Michigan residents access, regardless of geographic area, age, or information need. In order to reach the widest group of people possible, the statewide projects are designed to be worthwhile and available to individuals, public library users, K-12 students and teachers, higher education students and faculty, government officials and businesses. All benefit from LSTA funding.

## 2013 LSTA OVERVIEW

In 2013, Michigan's \$4,504,022 in LSTA funding supported resources for public, academic, K-12 and special libraries and the public. The majority of LSTA funds coming to Michigan supported the Michigan eLibrary "MeL" (<http://mel.org>), which includes:

- Licensed databases with quality published information ranging from general information to specialized research;
- K-12 and higher education test preparation; occupational testing and job training;
- Subject area portals with recommended resources, such as Jobs and Business;
- "Michigana," a collection of digitized Michigan history primary source material;
- "M.O.R.E.," Michigan Online Resources for Educators;
- MeLCat, a statewide catalog and patron-initiated interlibrary loan service.

Other statewide services included summer reading programming; the Michigan Reads! early literacy program; continuing education for librarians through workshops and training; web site training and hosting for small and rural libraries; and training and assistance with E-rate funding applications.

These projects continue to sustain wide-ranging access for residents and significant cost savings for both local and educational institutions and individuals. The collaborative nature of the projects and the cost savings of MeL allow the Library of Michigan and libraries throughout the state to provide a wealth of quality online materials and shared print materials to all Michigan residents for a minimal cost.

## 2013 KEY FACTS ABOUT LSTA IN MICHIGAN

- ❖ Michigan residents can use online Michigan eLibrary ([MeL.org](http://MeL.org)) materials 24/7 from home, work, a library or wherever they have access to the Internet.
- ❖ Michigan residents borrowed 985,999 books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, etc. through MeLCat. Each of these is an item that their library did not have to buy, for a savings of over \$34.5 million dollars.
- ❖ Job seekers and those practicing for educational and occupational tests took 146,824 tests and 30,492 courses in LearningExpress at no cost to them.
- ❖ People in Michigan searched MeL databases over 36.2 million times.
- ❖ After those searches, people downloaded 17.2 million articles and documents, which is equivalent to 1.7 items for every single person in Michigan.
- ❖ Statewide database contracts saved Michigan libraries and residents approximately \$78 million dollars or 25 times what the Library of Michigan pays for statewide coverage.
- ❖ 412 libraries are MeLCat members; including public, academic, school and special libraries, saving time and money, while providing more materials to their patrons.
- ❖ Funding for E-rate training helped libraries to get \$2,869,794 in discounts for telecommunications costs, providing more and faster access to the Internet to their communities.
- ❖ Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.) now has nearly 60,000 educational web sites that include videos, lesson plans, etc. Many are aligned to state and national curriculum standards for use by public and private teachers and homeschoolers.
- ❖ Jobs and Career Accelerator, an interactive site that assists job seekers with resume writing, interviewing and job searches, had over 13,000 sessions.

## MICHIGAN LSTA PROGRAM GOALS

The *LSTA Five-Year Plan for Michigan, October 2012 through September 2017* addresses the needs of Michigan residents for information and library services through three goals. These goals were determined through an evaluation of the previous Five-Year Plan and community needs assessments, which included input from residents and libraries from rural and urban areas across the state.

A specific focus of the goals is to bring services directly to residents by assisting local libraries in communities across the state.

### **Goal 1: Michigan residents will have equal access to resources and materials in various formats for lifelong learning.**

**Need:** Users continue to need equitable access to materials, both print and digital, on a range of topics and at their point of need. Libraries need a consistent and stable source of materials to meet this need.

### **Goal 2: Michigan residents will have opportunities to gain new skills and improve skills to engage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century community and economy.**

**Need:** Users need access to 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and training, especially in rural and underserved urban areas of the state, although this is an issue in all communities. Users need workforce development training, technology literacy education, support for improved reading literacy, and assistance with a range of social and government services. Libraries need professional development and training materials to meet these needs.

### **Goal 3: Michigan libraries will actively pursue partnerships and initiatives that support community development and engagement.**

**Need:** Users need consistent and equitable services from libraries to assist them in lifelong learning and community engagement. Libraries need to be able to easily share best practices for services and for developing local partnerships to meet this need.

Proposed programs and measures for outputs and outcomes for each goal are listed in the Five-Year Plan at [www.michigan.gov/lsta](http://www.michigan.gov/lsta). The Five-Year Plan for 2012-2017 is a part of how the Michigan library community will continue to provide appropriate, quality services and programs to its patrons through 2017.

## STATEWIDE PROJECTS – Serving All of Michigan’s Residents

### MeL – the Michigan eLibrary

**Mission:** Michigan’s virtual library, MeL, gives Michigan residents the information they need, when they need it, where they need it, and in the format they desire.

The Michigan eLibrary (“MeL,” at [mel.org](http://mel.org)) is Michigan’s statewide virtual library, an essential tool for Michigan’s residents. Through statewide subscriptions, MeL provides comprehensive topical information ranging from auto repair to zoos. Resources are available 24/7 and include full-text articles; eBooks; car repair manuals; K-16 academic and occupational practice exams that can track and score an individual’s performance; job search courses; K-12 curriculum materials; digital history collections; free Michigan-focused Internet resources; and a variety of other quality commercially published databases.

Job seekers, entrepreneurs and business owners, workers seeking retraining, college, high school and elementary school students, parents, homeschoolers, educators, and lifelong learners all use these collections to find what they need to succeed, to learn, and to improve their lives. The resources include elementary, secondary, college and professional level research; general information on health and social issues; local history and genealogy; and access to articles and books available in Michigan libraries.

After 20 years of development and improvement, MeL is a backbone of library resources for students and other residents and a great return on investment. In 2013, people used the databases over 36.2 million times, which is nearly four searches and one and half articles for every single person in Michigan.

MeL databases cost \$3,132,740 in 2013. If libraries had purchased these subscriptions individually, the cost would have been approximately \$78 million, 25 times what the Library of Michigan pays for statewide coverage. Looked at another way, if Michigan residents had paid for each article they downloaded in 2013, they would have paid nearly \$206 million. MeL also saves libraries the time and staff necessary to negotiate with vendors and maintain the services.

## MeL Components:

**MeL Databases** – Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, historical documents and images, curriculum materials and other full-text materials. Content ranges from the K-12 level to professional and research levels in science, medicine, education, technology, humanities, arts, social sciences, law and genealogy. Spanish language materials are available, especially for K-12 students. State funds also support significant business and early literacy resources.

**MeLCat** – The statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Users can search the catalog from [www.MeL.org](http://www.MeL.org) or directly from their participating local library catalog. Michigan residents are using MeLCat to easily identify and request convenient, quick and free delivery of materials from other participating Michigan libraries to their own library for pick up.

**MeL Michigana** – Digitized local historical resources from Michigan libraries, including family papers, photographs, diaries, obituaries, newspapers, maps, archives and other local documents and commercial history resources. These materials illustrate Michigan's past and place in American history through primary sources on towns, counties, and individuals and topics such as the Civil War and the automotive, shipping and lumbering industries.

**MeL eBooks** – A collection of thousands of non-fiction and reference electronic books for academics and professionals. Topics include science, computers, business, education and humanities among others.

**MeL Gateways** – A balanced collection of quality, librarian selected Internet sites that are Michigan-related or particularly useful to Michigan residents.

**MeL Tests, Tutorials & Workforce Development** – A comprehensive, interactive online learning platform of occupational, licensing and academic practice tests and tutorials for K-16 and job seekers, from GED assistance to the GRE. The Job & Career Accelerator section covers a broad area of workforce skills building—from career planning and preparation, job search skills, to resume writing and interviewing skills.

**Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.)** – A portal to tens of thousands of quality educational materials that are web-based and aligned with the state's current curriculum standards including the national Common Core state standards. This portal helps K-12 teachers and homeschoolers find the right materials for their students quickly and easily, allowing them to focus their time on teaching.

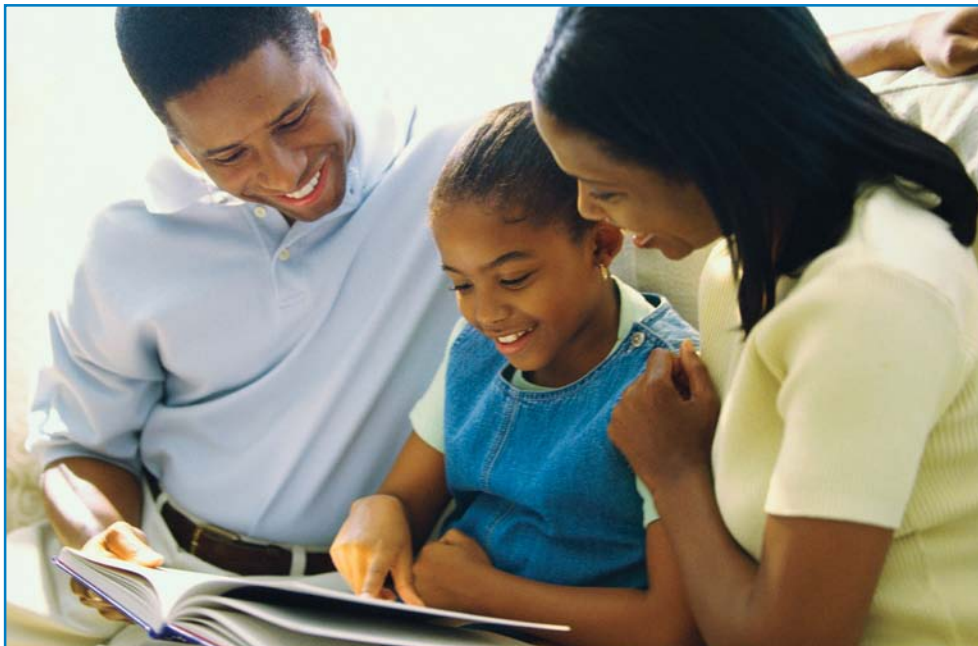


## MeLCat – the Michigan eLibrary catalog

MeLCat is a virtual statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. The network shared over 985,000 items in 2013, making it a very successful, cost-saving collaboration. Member libraries share both a catalog that library users can search and a commitment to sharing their collections. Library users can easily order materials from other libraries through their own library's online catalog. Books, DVDs and other materials are delivered via a fast statewide delivery service that is free to the library users. Through this service, local communities did not need to purchase nearly \$34,500,000 of needed resources.

In 2013, thirteen libraries were added to the collaborative and we are providing in-depth support of continuing members. As of September 30, 2013, 429 libraries were members, including 87% of public libraries in the state. MeLCat includes libraries from every area of the state, making it a true statewide service. In Michigan, public, school, academic and special libraries all participate in the statewide catalog and they do not have to convert to a common integrated library catalog system, saving both funds and staff time.

At the end of state fiscal year 2013, MeLCat was a combined library collection of 47.8 million items. Michigan residents use the catalog to easily identify and request convenient, quick delivery of materials to their home library, to the tune of 985,999 items or over 2,700 items every day. The requested materials were delivered in three to five days and a significant number of the requests were delivered in one day, all at no charge to the user.



MeLCat is a true collaboration. Librarians throughout the state participate in planning committees and user groups. MeLCat is a voluntary program with local delivery costs and local staff participation so the more than 80% of public libraries and more than 30% of academic libraries that participate speak to the value it has for diverse communities and users across the state.

The residents who request materials are students, educators, business professionals, rural and urban residents - all users with a participating library card have ready access from home, work or school to more sources than any individual library could own. In rural areas especially, the impact on library users has been striking.

LSTA funds support MeLCat catalog software, enhancements to the catalog, software to allow users to find full-text articles within the catalog, new member library training, integration of new members' catalogs into MeLCat and a pilot subsidy to improve delivery. LSTA funding has allowed Michigan's librarians to reach out and share their expertise and their collections with all Michigan residents.



## **Childhood & Family Literacy Support... Summer Reading and Michigan Reads!**

### **Summer Reading**

Summer Reading programs at public libraries use materials from the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). LSTA funds the Library of Michigan's participation in CSLP. Membership in the collaborative allows the state library to provide high-quality, comprehensive summer reading manuals to all public libraries, saving the libraries both staff time and funds. These manuals include myriad literacy improvement activities and materials for early literacy, children, young adults and families reading together.

In studies, children who participate in summer reading maintain or increase their reading levels throughout the summer. This helps develop children's interest in reading outside of school, encouraging and motivating them to improve their reading skills. Michigan's participation in this program allows local library staff to focus more on working with children and provides greater access to programming for children. Michigan's libraries reported the following level of participation from the previous year.

### **Michigan Reads! One State, One Children's Book Program**

Michigan Reads! is the flagship statewide early literacy program for the Library of Michigan. This annual statewide one book program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers and to encourage family bonding through reading.

The program includes a custom early literacy kit based on a new book each year, which is distributed to public and tribal libraries, public and private elementary schools, and Great Start and Head Start classrooms. This year, the Library of Michigan also piloted outreach to certified child care providers. An author tour to public libraries and schools is an integral part of the promotion and outreach. LSTA funds helped support this program and brought an author event to over 2,700 children. Overall, kits reach nearly all children ages 3 to 4 who are eligible for either Great Start or Head Start programs and nearly all children in the state aged 5 to 7, regardless of income or geographic area.



## Library & Cultural Collaborations

The Michigan Activity Pass is a partnership between public libraries and arts and cultural organizations throughout the state. The Library Network coordinates the program, which provides discounted or free admission to cultural attractions to library card holders at their local public libraries. In 2013, activities were available in all counties, providing residents with greatly expanded opportunities to explore and learn about their state. The Library of Michigan supported the program to provide these experiences statewide.

## Access to Michigan Literature and History

Michigan has a rich history and a significant literary heritage. In order to make local history and local authors more accessible, the Library of Michigan provided funding to improve the Michigan Authors & Illustrators database and the Legislative Biography database. The Michigan Authors & Illustrators database provides information on authors born in or living in Michigan, including written works and biographies. The Legislative Biography database provides information on all Michigan's legislators and their activities in the Legislature, from the formation of the state to the present.





## Training and Technology to Improve Services for Michigan Residents

### Conferences & Workshops

The Library of Michigan uses LSTA funding to provide or sponsor continuing education for librarians throughout the state. Libraries are able to improve and expand services available to Michigan residents by learning from expert presenters and colleagues. The continuing education program also allows public libraries, especially small and rural libraries, to receive their state certification, which is required for public libraries to receive state aid to public libraries funds. Highlights include:

#### Spring Institute Conference

Spring Institute was a two-day conference for children and youth librarians at public libraries and school librarians. The conference provided training, resources, and strategies to deliver high-quality youth services and programming to library patrons throughout Michigan.

#### Academic Libraries Day

Academic Libraries was a two-day conference for academic librarians from colleges and universities. The focus this year was practical approaches to patron interaction and education and also the role of information literacy.

#### Directors' Summit

Directors' Summit was a one-day workshop for public and academic library directors. The program was designed to bring directors together to discuss and plan actions on current issues.

#### E-Rate Support & Training

The federal Universal Service Fund, also known as E-rate, is an important source of funding telecommunication and Internet access for public libraries. In 2013, the Library of Michigan funded training workshops and consultation services for public libraries. Michigan public libraries received discounts totaling \$2,869,794. Libraries used these funds to give access to local services and collections, while at the same time implementing needed broadband service for their community.

## Technology Support

### Public Library Data Collection

The Library of Michigan uses LSTA funding to support the collection of data about public library services and the provision of state aid to public libraries. Through these activities, the library community can get a better understanding of local and regional library service trends and the Library of Michigan distributes state funds to local communities to provide increased services.

### Support for Rural Communities... the Plinkit Collaborative

The Library of Michigan supports rural libraries and their communities through improved access to online resources. As part of that support, the Library of Michigan maintained its membership in the Plinkit Collaborative. For the fourth year in a row, Plinkit has come in under-budget. Plinkit is a way to help small, rural libraries provide online information. The collaborative develops software for modern, robust library websites that are simple and easy to update for small libraries unable to develop websites on their own due to staff knowledge or budgetary limitations. Within Michigan, the Library of Michigan trains librarians on how to use the software and provides hosting and programming development for websites for participating libraries. In the next 1-2 years, Plinkit will be migrating to ESP Library from Enfold Systems. As of September 30, 2013, 122 communities have robust library websites, giving rural residents access to MeL materials and to information on local services. Approximately 800,000 small town residents now have the same resources that residents in larger communities enjoy and those same residents used their libraries' sites over 1.3 million times last year.

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## MICHIGAN RESIDENTS SPEAK...

We regularly receive comments about the importance of these programs to students, professionals, businesses, and teachers, among many others. The following are a selection from the last year.

*"The fact that I can be sitting at my computer, up past my bedtime ... and browsing the entire catalog of all libraries in the state? AND IT'S FREE? I'm still not quite sure how this is legal."*

*"In February 2013 I attended the Michigan CTE Conference in Detroit. I chose to attend the MeL breakout session to learn more about this FREE resource knowing it may be beneficial to myself and fellow educators at BAISD Career Center. After one quick hour of overview, I was AMAZED by the abundance of reliable resources available through one site. I knew my peers would find MeL to be an incredibly useful tool in their career and technical education programs. ... As I suspected, our staff was equally excited and quickly identified MANY unique and beneficial uses for MeL in their classrooms this fall. Thank you...for introducing our staff to MeL, and thank you Michigan eLibrary for providing this wonderful resource!"*

*"When future students call for our Compass Testing, I always send them to your website to practice the tests. This shows them what to expect and builds a sense of confidence in coming back to school. This helps them be more successful students, no matter if they are coming back after 25 years, or from their high school! Thanks again."*

*"MelCat has become an indispensable library service for all Michigan residents, another great testament to the DNA of libraries to collaborate for the common good. Kudos to the Library of Michigan...!"*

*"I wish to express my appreciation for the Michigan eLibrary! When I became Branch Manager of the Pickford Community Library six months ago, one of my top priorities was to increase public awareness of interlibrary loan services and the vast resources available through the Michigan eLibrary. These services provide our "window on the world" and make it possible for us to bring amazing educational opportunities into our community. Our patrons have been resonating to this, and library is growing by leaps and bounds. Our two year old library is beginning to flourish on so many levels and the opportunities provided by the Michigan eLibrary are important components."*

*"When you first talked about Plinkit at the Rural Libraries Conference four years ago, it sounded too good to be true. But it's even better than we could have imagined. You have made life so easy for those of us who need to "do it all" and on a shrinking budget as well."*

*"Yesterday I was interpreting for Parent Teacher Conferences and had the opportunity to share about Mel.org! The parents as well as the teachers were so grateful to hear. Especially since it is free!"*